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APR 3 1951

MEMORANDUM FOR: DEPUTY DIRECTOR (PLANS)

SUBJECT : "Report on Communications - CIA", dated 13 Mar 51
(prepared by [redacted])

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1. In accordance with your request I submit the following comments with respect to [redacted] report. I agree strongly with [redacted] position (para 2b) that communications should be closely integrated with operations and retained in your area of jurisdiction. Communications are the blood stream of operations, and agent field operations must be the subject of constant adaptation and modification to fulfill operational requirements. Moreover, the significance of the communications function within CIA is almost entirely operational, the non-operational aspects being largely confined to routine domestic telecommunications facilities and services which are arranged with the telecommunications companies. [redacted] position appears to be generally responsive to this basic principle.

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2. Reference paragraphs 2a, 2c, and 2d, I feel that the Communications Officer's exact title and final organizational location should probably be left to a definitive decision as to how OPC, OSC and OO are to be more closely integrated. Under the present arrangement, it does not seem appropriate that the Communications Officer should be raised to the level of an Assistant Director. This would seem to negate the idea that communications must serve operations. In the joint study on integration of OSC/OPC it was recommended that the Communications Division be placed on the area division level. The head of the Communications Division, however, would also serve as the senior technical advisor to DD/P on the subject of communications. This would ensure the proper technical surveillance over communications and at the same time, that communications were fully integrated with operations and of maximum service to the operators. On the other hand, I recognize [redacted] point that the Communications Officer must be given a certain amount of prestige if he is to serve the other elements of CIA. Under the present organization of CIA there is no solution to this problem which satisfies all requirements.

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3. I concur in general with paragraph 2e, with respect to enlarging the scope of the communications element of CIA. However, the object should be to serve the specific requirements of CIA and its various components, which do not necessarily correspond to the requirements of the Chief Signal Officer of the Army. In other words, the communications element should be tailored to meet the specific needs of CIA. With regard to the question of communications

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intelligence, comment on this subject should be made by the Assistant Director for Current Intelligence.

RECOMMENDATION

4. In view of the above, I recommend that the Communications Division be temporarily placed within the CIA organization at a point which will make certain that it will serve operating requirements and will not be an independent or autonomous activity within the Agency. Under the present organizational structure it would seem most appropriate to have the Chief of the Communications Division report to DD/P -- as the officer responsible for communications support of covert intelligence and operations, as well as the senior technical staff advisor on communications. In this event, the staff of DD/P should be strengthened appropriately to assist DD/P in discharging this added direct supervisory and administrative responsibility. [In the event of a decision to merge OSO and OPC (and OO), the Chief of the Communications Division should report to the Chief of this new, combined office.]

FRANK G. WISNER
Assistant Director for
Policy Coordination

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Encl.
Memo to DCT. 13 Mar 51,
fr [] (w/2 encls.)

✓
DADPC/CFvk/mab
3 April 1951

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